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Tonight's Jackpot

Knights' moves

Get the inside story on Tuesday's tilt against the Halifax Mooseheads in their final Memorial Cup round-robin game PAGE 4

Election deflection

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath agrees to pass the provincial budget and prop up the minority Liberal government PAGE 3

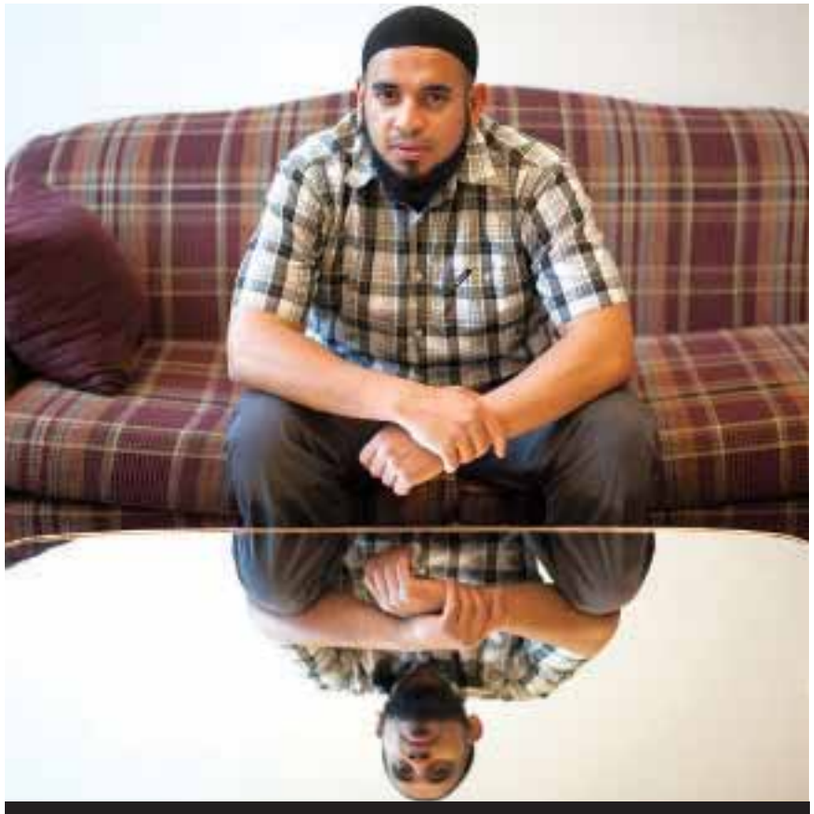
T.O. mayor video scandal

Justin Trudeau and Premier Kathleen Wynne weigh in on allegations Rob Ford was caught on video smoking crack PAGE 6

LICENCE TO THRILL

REMEMBER THIS BABY? STEVE MCQUEEN'S 1968 PONY CAR PRACTICALLY STOLE THE MOVIE BULLITT. TO MARK THE RELEASE OF FAST & FURIOUS 6, METRO LOOKS AT SOME OF HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST CAR CHASES PAGE 10

NEWS WORTH SHARING.



Abdul-Habib Habib, 23, of London, is pictured sitting on a couch on Tuesday at the London Muslim Mosque where he is a youth adviser. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Probe worries Muslim leaders

Project Scupper. Community leaders say they're taking proactive approach with youth

A need to work together

"If the Canadian intelligence community thinks that these teachings are taking place, then we need to know, so we can help them and they can help us."

Abdul-Habib Habib, youth adviser, London Muslim Mosque

MARK SPOWART
london@metronews.ca

London's Muslim leaders are expressing concerns as national security investigators probe local figures believed to have promoted extreme Islamic views.

Dr. Hassan Mostafa, chairman of the London-based Islamic Centre of Southwestern Ontario, is among those worried about the image being painted.

"It is more and more of a recurring issue," he said. "Whether it is 9-11, the Boston bombings or any geopolitical event that involves religion, it winds up on our doorstep."

Known as Project Scupper, the investigation aims to identify local places and people that may have played a role in radicalizing young people. The community has been in the spotlight since RCMP confirmed in April that two Londoners were among 29 militants who laid siege on an Algerian gas plant. At least two others are believed to have travelled overseas with the pair.

Since then, Mostafa and others have been trying to ensure that young Muslims are getting the right direction. Community leaders, for example, put out an open call for youth to attend a recent lecture by Imam Sikander Hashmi of Kingston. "We asked him to speak on how youth can follow … the middle-of-the-road path," Mostafa said. The result was a room filled with 150 to 200 youth and their parents.

If radical ideas are being taught, it's happening in secret, said Abdul-Habib Habib, 23. A youth adviser at the London Muslim Mosque, he says he is always on the lookout for people who could be swayed in the wrong direction.

At one point, he encountered a young person who sparked concerns. "We invited him to attend a camp. I spoke with the other advisers and told them, 'This person has issues, and we need to focus on him and make sure that before he leaves this weekend he has the proper image of Islam,'" Habib said. "We gave him lots of attentive care and, to this day, he remains on the middle path and is a very solid person

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Road safety

Nearly 600 fined in traffic blitz

London police doled out 561 tickets and arrested seven people on impaired-driving charges during a weeklong safety blitz that wrapped up on Victoria Day. Aggressive driving accounted for 344 of the tickets written. Another 115 people were cited for not wearing a seat belt and 102 tickets were doled out for distracted driving.

Officers stopped 1,750 drivers at RIDE checkpoints across the city. METRO

Reading garden

Get outside and crack open a book

An outdoor reading garden is coming to the Beacock Branch Library (1280 Huron St.) this summer thanks to $7,508 in grants.

The grants come from the city's Sparks! Neighbourhood Matching Fund and TD Friends of the Environment.

Interested volunteers can contact the Beacock Library or LUSO. METRO

Recognizing students

TVDSB to dole out safety awards

The Thames Valley District School Board is set to recognize student leaders working to make schools safe and accepting places.

Officials will dole out awards to 59 students during a Wednesday ceremony. The awards aim to recognize at least one male and one female student from each high school. METRO

Young talent

Students successful at science fair

Two London-area high school students walked away from the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair with big honours under their belts.

Jessie MacAlpine of Woodstock won the Best of Category award in medicine and health sciences for her project that identified mustard oil as a possible treatment for malaria.

Dan Alferov of London earned a third-place award in behavioural and social sciences for a project that established a link between the brain and mind. METRO

Coun. Joe Swan addresses city staff during Tuesday's investment and economic prosperity committee meeting in council chambers. Swan, and others, left the meeting unhappy after learning money wasn't included in the 2013-14 budget for a high-profile project meant to spur job growth. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Jobs project setback surprises committee

Employment strategy. Funds for small-business centre yanked from budget: City manager

MARK SPOWART
london@metronews.ca

A key piece of the city's plan to create new jobs appears to be dead in the water.

Council's investment and economic prosperity committee got the news Tuesday during a meeting that raised as many questions as it answered.

Called the Enterprise Centre, the development was supposed to be a one-stop shop where people looking to launch small businesses could get advice, licences and other services.

Turns out, it's no further ahead than when the idea was first pitched in September 2011.

"At this point, we have no money, we have no interest from other organizations and, as a result, we have not allocated staff resources," city manager Art Zuidema told the economic prosperity committee.

Funding for the project, aimed at making London more friendly to entrepreneurs and their money, was either removed from or reallocated in the 2013-14 budget, officials said.

While politicians would have approved the move as part of the overall budget, they were caught off guard by the update Tuesday.

"If someone put this on snooze, no one told me," Mayor Joe Fontana said.

The centre was pitched by the small-business community as a result of discussions with the Mayor's Economic Development Council, a task force aimed at finding solutions to London's unemployment woes.

In one rendition, the centre was to be housed in an up to 30,000-square-foot facility and include representatives from the city and agencies like the London Economic Development Corp.

Hopes for the project

"This was to be a flagship development."

Coun. Joe Swan, chair of the investment and economic prosperity committee, on the Enterprise Centre.

City, fair district to discuss demo plans

The Western Fair District's plans to demolish several buildings has raised questions from city councillors and the community, Coun. Joe Swan says. METRO FILE

Politicians are planning a sit-down meeting with Western Fair District officials after raising concerns about the district's plan to tear down buildings in exchange for more parking.

"There have been a lot of questions floating around in the community and, as chair of this committee, I get these questions all the time," Coun. Joe Swan said during Tuesday's investment and economic prosperity committee meeting.

One of the big questions was answered during the meeting. While the city owns 50 per cent of the buildings on the fair district's grounds, it has no veto power over the demolition decision.

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

'Jack-of-all-trades'.
TVDSB director scooped up by Western University

Bill Tucker just can't stay away.

Set to finish a five-year stint as director of education with the Thames Valley District School Board in August, Tucker will start a brand new role at Western University a few days later.

Beginning in September, the long-time TVDSB employee — Tucker has served in either a superintendent, principal, vice-principal or teaching capacity since 1979 — will become an associate professor in Western's education department.

"Why not? Why not go to my roots as a teacher?" Tucker asked, rhetorically.

The new gig is a one-year "visiting appointment," which Western's dean of education, Vicki Schwean, hopes will blossom into a multi-year term.

"He's got street credibility," she said of Tucker's hands-on-heavy resume. "Even though academics think they can do everything, they can't. We need a mix."

Bill Tucker HANDOUT/TVDSB.CA

Tucker will take on a variety of duties, including teaching, researching and working as an administrator. Schwean calls the graduate of both Oakridge high school and Western a "jack-of-all-trades."

"Bill is one of those people who exemplifies the skills, knowledge and competencies, of a very distinguished leader in our community," she said.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Artists in Residence.
Calling all London artists!

The Arts Council is looking for artists interested in applying to become part of the London Artists in Residence program.

The program matches local artists with teachers and aims to enhance students' learning experiences with everything from drama to painting.

Artists are paid $50 per hour with a minimum 25-hour commitment.

There's one paid hour of prep time for every four hours of teaching.

Information session

Artists interested in becoming part of the London Artists in Residence program can attend an information session June 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Arts Council office (251 Dundas St.).

Positions are open for the 2013-14 school year. The application deadline is June 28. METRO

Kenneth Froude

Police trying to track down repeat offender

Police are asking for the public's help as they try to track down a repeat offender from London.

Kenneth Froude, 45, was convicted in 2004 of sexually assaulting a woman at knifepoint after breaking into her London home. He's described as five-feet-eleven, about 150 pounds with brown eyes and greying hair. Anyone with information should call 911, 866-870-ROPE or Crimestoppers at 800-222-TIPS. METRO

Dreams Take Flight

Four-alarm fundraiser

The London Professional Fire Fighters Association will have a Dreams Take Flight car wash and barbecue June 15.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the main fire station (400 Horton St. E.). Car washes cost $5, with proceeds going to cover the cost of Disney World trips for needy children.

The fire association has been involved in the program that helps children for 15 years.

METRO

I'm useless until I have my first coffee

The driver of an SUV was taken to hospital with "very minor" injuries, police said, after a Tuesday crash sent a car careening through the front window of Starbucks at Richmond Street and Central Avenue. The accident was reported in the intersection about 8:20 a.m., with the SUV hitting the passenger side of a Volvo and pushing it onto the sidewalk. Police were trying to determine which driver was at fault Tuesday. Several people were inside the Starbucks at the time, but were not injured, police said. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Byelection brewing in London West

NDP support budget.
Seat left vacant by Chris Bentley must be filled by mid-August

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

The clock was already ticking. Now, the end game has been defined.

When NDP leader Andrea Horwath vowed Tuesday to support the Ontario budget, she ruled out the chances of a province-wide election. At the same time, she tasked Premier Kathleen Wynne with setting a byelection date for London West.

The riding hasn't had a sitting MPP since former energy minister Chris Bentley, a Liberal, resigned Feb. 14.

Scott Courtice, president of the Liberals' London West riding association, said a candidate nomination meeting is expected in June.

Tick-tock

- According to Ontario law, a vacant MPP seat must be filled within six months.
- Since Chris Bentley's last day was Feb. 14, London West must have a new leader before Aug. 14.

"We've had good interest," he said in an email, "but potential candidates are still confidential at this point."

The NDP will have a nomination meeting Wednesday to decide which of four people interested in the job will become the official candidate. Jeff Buchanan, who ran against Bentley in 2011, is up against Mohamed Salih, Peggy Sattler and Jennifer White.

As for the Conservatives, they've had a candidate in place since late last year. Ali Chahbar, the runner-up to Bentley in 2011, said he's been knocking on London West doors for months now.

'It would have been really easy to simply say no,' NDP say of Ontario budget

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath acknowledged Tuesday that the Liberals' budget proposal isn't everything her party wanted.

"It would have been really easy to simply say no and pull the plug and start all over again," Horwath said as she announced her party's support of the spending plan. "But New Democrats took the harder path and worked really hard to deliver for Ontarians."

The Liberals addressed a long list of NDP demands when the budget was tabled May 2, including a plan to lower auto insurance premiums along with boosting funding for home care and youth unemployment programs.

Last week, Premier Kathleen Wynne agreed to another term — creating a financial accountability office, modelled on the parliamentary budget office in Ottawa.

Both opposition parties have been hammering the Liberals over the cancellation of two gas plants that will cost taxpayers at least $585 million. The Tories say it's enough to warrant an election.

But Horwath said the financial accountability office will help prevent such fiascos in the future.

"When you see the scandals that are playing out this very moment at all levels of government, we know that Ontarians deserve that accountability office," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andrea Horwath METRO FILE

Knights get a pounding by the Mooseheads in Saskatoon

Up next. Wednesday's final round-robin game is between the Western Hockey League champion Portland Winterhawks and host Saskatoon Blades

Martin Frk had a hat trick and an assist and Darcy Ashley also scored twice and had an assist of his own Tuesday as the Halifax Mooseheads hammered the London Knights 9-2 in the final round-robin game for both teams at the MasterCard Memorial Cup.

Stefan Fournier added a goal and an assist, while Brent Andrews, Ryan Falkenham and Luca Ciampini also scored for Halifax (2-1), which booked a spot in at least Friday's semifinal with a clinical offensive performance.

Zachary Fucale made 26 saves for the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League champions, who led 5-0 after the first period and 8-2 after the second before taking their foot off the gas in the third. Top prospects Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin each added three assists.

The focus of the tournament now turns to Wednesday's final round-robin game between the Western Hockey League champion Portland Winterhawks (1-1) and the host Saskatoon Blades (1-1).

A victory for Portland puts the Mooseheads directly into Sunday's championship game, while a Saskatoon win means the Blades will go right to the final. London will play the loser in a tiebreaker on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Placing their wagers

- London mayor Joe Fontana, Portland's Charlie Hales, Halifax's Mike Savage, and Saskatoon's Don Atchison have all placed wagers on the outcome of the 2013 Memorial Cup.
- The three losing mayors will wear the winning team's sweater at a council meeting following the tournament.
- Each politician has also offered a special "ante" to the victor.
- Fontana has promised to fork over Labatt beer products, Hales says he'll arrange a delivery of salmon, Savage is going to ship lobster, and Atchison is sending sausage.

Halifax Mooseheads centre Nathan MacKinnon takes the puck past Knights defenceman Olli Maatta on Tuesday in Saskatoon. Halifax won, 9-2. LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-London Knights goalie Kevin Bailie excels out east

Knights goalie Jake Patterson, left, chats with ex-Knights goalie Kevin Bailie during a break at practice earlier this season. JOHN MATISZ/METRO FILE

The irony is undeniable.

The London Knights, a team that waived overage goalie Kevin Bailie at the Ontario Hockey League trade deadline, are having goaltending issues at the Memorial Cup.

Bailie, meanwhile, is fresh off an excellent half-season with the Summerside Western Capitals in the Maritime Junior Hockey League. He posted a 1.88 goals-against average in 27 games for the PEI club, concluding his junior hockey career with a top goalie trophy from the RBC Cup, the Jr. A nationals.

The 21-year-old suited up for the OHL's Oshawa Generals from 2008 to 2012, prior to being dealt last summer to the Knights. Until London general manager Mark Hunter signed Anthony Stolarz to an OHL contract in January, Bailie was the team's go-to puck stopper.

"Going into (my year with) London, my only goal was to win a national championship," Bailie said Tuesday. "And although it wasn't the same trophy, we were one goal from a national championship."

Before a hometown crowd Sunday, the Western Capitals were downed, 3-1 (empty-netter), by the Brooks Bandits in the RBC Cup championship game.

Bailie's old running mate, Jake Patterson, has replaced Stolarz in the crease at the Memorial Cup. Stolarz, a highly touted Philadelphia Flyers prospect, has posted a .871 save percentage and 2-4 record in his last six starts.

"I'm definitely not cheering against them," Bailie said of the Knights competing in Saskatoon. "They're a great group of guys. I'd never wish anything bad on the players."

That doesn't mean the Belleville native has forgiven Hunter for the last-minute waive.

"I was dealt a pretty tough hand, but made the most of it, I feel," he said. "It kind of handcuffed me. I didn't have a chance to go somewhere else."

It would have stung less if Bailie was playing poorly at the time. But the Knights had recently strung together a massive 24-game winning streak, with Patterson and Bailie splitting the netminding workload down the middle.

"It would have been easy for him to hang 'em up for the rest of the year, mope around," Western Capitals GM Pat McIver said, "but he came here with the right attitude. He was determined to prove to people he was a capable goaltender."

Barring a surprise pro signing, Bailie will study law and stop pucks at Queen's University this fall.

"There's lots of people knocking on his door right now, and I couldn't be happier for him," McIver added. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

The Kevin Bailie effect

London Knights 2012-13 record:

- With Kevin Bailie on the roster: 34-8 (.810 winning percentage)
- Without Kevin Bailie on the roster: 33-16 (.673 winning percentage)

KNIGHTS WATCH

BATTLE FOR THE CUP

Rescue efforts wind down in suburb torn asunder by tornado

Death toll lowered to 24. Early chaos led to initial report of 51 dead

Austin Brock holds cat Tutti shortly after the animal was retrieved from the rubble of Brock's home on Tuesday, which was demolished a day earlier when a tornado moved through Moore, Okla. BRENNAN LINSLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The search for survivors and the dead was nearly complete Tuesday in the remnants of an Oklahoma City suburb where a massive tornado flattened homes and demolished an elementary school, the fire chief said. Authorities lowered the death toll to 24, down from 51.

Fire Chief Gary Bird said he was "98 per cent sure" there were no more survivors or bodies to recover under the rubble in the city of Moore. He said every damaged home had been searched at least once and that he's hopeful the work could be completed by nightfall, though heavy rain slowed efforts.

Authorities initially reported a higher death toll because some victims were apparently counted twice in the early chaos of the storm, said Amy Elliot, a spokeswoman for the state medical examiner's office. Downed communication lines exacerbated the problem.

The death toll included at least nine children. More than 200 people were treated at area hospitals.

"We will rebuild and we will regain our strength," said Gov. Mary Fallin, who went on a flyover of the area and called it "hard to look at."

The ferocious storm clocked winds of up to 320 km/h. National Weather Service spokeswoman Keli Pirtle said the tornado was the first of its strength in 2013.

New search-and-rescue teams moved in at dawn Tuesday, taking over from the 200 or so emergency responders who worked all night.

Other search-and-rescue teams focused their efforts at Plaza Towers Elementary, where the storm ripped off the roof and knocked down walls as students huddled in hallways and bathrooms.

Seven of the nine dead children were killed at the school but several students were pulled alive from under a collapsed wall and other heaps of mangled debris.

Oklahoma has reinforced tornado shelters in more than 100 schools across the state but the two that were in Moore did not have them, said Albert Ashwood, director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. He said a shelter would not necessarily have saved more lives. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record carnage

Monday's twister came almost exactly two years after an enormous twister ripped through the city of Joplin, Miss., killing 158 people.

- That May 22, 2011, tornado was the deadliest in the U.S. since modern record keeping began in 1950, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A tornado outside Wichita, Kan., on May 19, apparently part of the same storm system that devastated Moore, Okla., on Monday. CONTRIBUTED

Canadian storm chaser tracks what lies ahead

A Saskskatchewan-based storm chaser said he was close by when a massive tornado touched down in Moore, Okla., on Monday, and continues to track the storm blamed for the deaths of at least 24 people.

Greg Johnson said he left the Moore suburb 20 minutes before the tornado hit.

"The reality is this wasn't just an event for Moore. Today is the fourth day of a storm system that has rolled through the southern plains — Moore was the latest one," said Johnson.

"The day before, however, the city of Shawnee, Okla., took a direct hit, as well, and there were fatalities; an entire community was destroyed."

Johnson is currently chasing the storm system through Texas and said people are hyper-aware about the danger.

"Everywhere we go people ... want to know what's happening. They want to share their stories, they want us to either put them in a state of relaxation ... or let them know if there is something to worry about." MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

Cross-country chaos

"It's been an incredible week of tornadoes so far."
Storm chaser Greg Johnson

In pictures

1 Devastation. Communities gone
The tornado flattened entire neighbourhoods, landing a direct blow on a school. STEVE GOOCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Deliverance. President on alert
U.S. President Barack Obama is instructing his team to get victims what they need "right away." PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Decree. Intensity measured
The National Weather Service gave the tornado the top-of-the-scale rating of EF-5 for wind speed, breadth and severity of damage. STEVE GOOCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 Defiance. In the face of nature
Jim Stubblefield, of Norman, Okla., raises a tattered flag Tuesday. Estimates from several meteorologists on the energy released by the tornado ranged from eight to more than 600 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb. CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Disbelief. Rare show of power
Cindy Wilson managed to take cover in a bathtub. The National Severe Storms Laboratory said less than one per cent of all U.S. tornadoes are this violent — about 10 a year. JIM BECKEL, THE OKLAHOMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not silent: Wynne, Trudeau

T.O. mayor silent on 'crack video'

Embattled Toronto Mayor Rob Ford stayed silent for a fourth day Tuesday amid allegations a drug dealer had recorded him smoking crack cocaine and making homophobic and racist comments.

As the scandal swirled around the mayor, others were less reticent.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau decried Ford's alleged use of an anti-gay slur against him. "It's a sentiment that a huge number of Canadians ... find reprehensible and unacceptable."

Premier Kathleen Wynne expressed concern over the ongoing firestorm. "It's concerning to me if there are issues ... that get in the way of a government, a municipal government, being able to work in the best interest of the city," Wynne said when pressed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford sits during a city council meeting Tuesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will donate hair, recycle

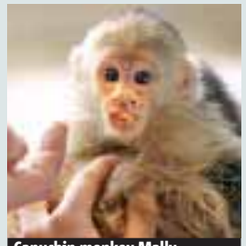
Arias pleads for life

Jodi Arias asked jurors to give her life in prison, arguing she "lacked perspective" when she told a reporter after she was convicted of murder that she preferred execution to spending the rest of her days in jail. She said she planned to use her time in prison to bring about positive changes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Catchin' the capuchin

Bieber's monkey becomes Germany's

Justin Bieber's pet monkey is now the property of Germany. Mally was seized by German customs March 28 when Bieber failed to produce required vaccination and import papers for the animal after landing in Munich for a European tour. Bieber has six weeks to contest the decision if he wants to do so. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Capuchin monkey Mally THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Those seeking to benefit from public office should leave: PM

Conservative caucus. Some observers have painted Duffy crisis as the most serious test the Tories have faced since 2011's majority win

A "very upset" Prime Minister Stephen Harper tried to settle down a scandal-rattled Conservative caucus Tuesday with talk of accountability and Senate reform, but shed no new light on the $90,000 transaction that cost him his chief of staff.

Conservative MPs and senators heading into Tuesday's caucus meeting had hoped Harper would provide more facts behind the growing scandal that forced his right-hand man, Nigel Wright, to resign over the weekend.

But if Harper's speech — opened up on this occasion to the media, a rarity — was any indication, they didn't get much.

"I don't think any of you are going to be very surprised to hear that I am not happy," Harper said in his first public comments since revelations last week that Wright wrote a personal cheque worth $90,000 to embattled Sen. Mike Duffy.

"I'm very upset about the conduct we have witnessed, the conduct of some parliamentarians and the conduct of my own office."

Harper didn't go into detail, however, about just how involved he or his office was in helping Duffy repay living expenses he shouldn't have claimed in the first place.

Nor did he go any farther behind closed doors; sources told The Canadian Press that while MPs pressed for more details during the meeting on his office's role in bailing out Duffy, they didn't get any.

The matter is in the hands of the federal ethics commissioner and the Senate ethics officer, who can be trusted to sort things out, many suggested.

"Trust me, they ask all the questions and they get to the bottom of the matters and that is the appropriate place, and that's where the ethics commissioner's report comes up," said Labour Minister Lisa Raitt. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime minister Stephen Harper speaks to his caucus on Parliament Hill on Tuesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Anyone who wants to use public office for their own benefit should make other plans, or better yet, leave this room." Prime Minister Stephen Harper

"If these people have done what has been speculated that they have done, they should be fired." Quebec Sen. Jacques Demers

"Until the prime minister comes before Canadians and candidly assumes responsibility and answers the questions that are outstanding, we will not have the kind of accountability that Canadians have every right to expect." Ralph Goodale, deputy leader of the Liberals

Desperately seeking johns: Canadian researcher

JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Toronto

A University of Victoria researcher is seeking Canadians who pay for sex for a nationwide study. He's hoping to replace assumptions about "johns" with data and to learn how to enlist sex-buyers in the fight against human trafficking.

Chris Atchison said he hopes the Sex, Safety and Security study will uncover the factors that go into a safe, conflict-free encounter and lead to a better understanding of human trafficking — the sale, forced transportation and slavery of people — and how to stop it.

"It seems to me that the front lines of that offensive has to include the people who purchase sexual services, because they're in the clear position to be able to report it," he said.

Atchison said a current trial in Ottawa about an alleged teenaged prostitution ring makes it clear how important it is to develop a more accurate understanding of the people that pay for sex.

The trial includes the testimony of "clients" who, according to the Crown, offered some help to teenaged victims when they found out they were being pimped out against their will, while others offered no assistance.

Role reversal

"If (johns are) already labelled and stigmatized as being evil, perverted, molesters, exploiters, how likely would it be that they would step forward and report abuse?" Researcher Chris Atchison

Atchison said johns aren't without moral lines. He said assuming all sex-buyers enjoy paying for sex from a trafficked person who is suffering abuse would mean all johns are sociopathic.

It's those kinds of assumptions that deter johns from reaching out to police to help a trafficked person, he said.

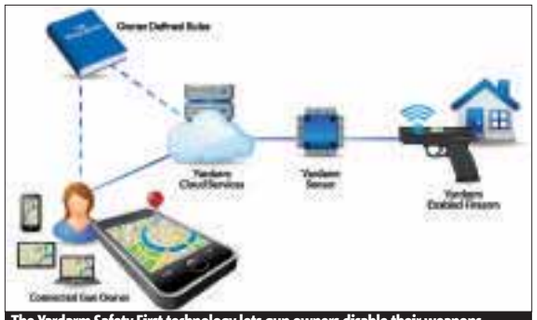
Firearms safety. Wireless controller lets gun owners disable weapons via phone

A high-tech startup is wading into the gun control debate with a wireless controller that would allow gun owners to know when their weapon is being moved — and disable it remotely.

The technology, but not an actual gun, was demonstrated Tuesday at a wireless technology conference in Las Vegas. It comes at a time when U.S. lawmakers are considering contentious smart gun laws that would require new guns to include high-tech devices that limit who can fire them.

The new Yardarm Technologies LLC system would trigger an alarm on an owner's cellphone if a gun is moved, and the owner could then hit a button to activate the safety and disable the weapon. New guns would come with a microchip on the body and antennas winding around the grip.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Yardarm Safety First technology lets gun owners disable their weapons wirelessly, offering more control over who can fire them. YARDARM TECHNOLOGIES

Publishing. Ebook sales are levelling off, report finds

Kobo and Kindle have grown to become familiar brands in Canada but ebook sales now appear to be plateauing, suggests a report by the industry organization BookNet Canada.

Based on surveys with 4,000 book-buying consumers, BookNet Canada pegged paperback sales in 2012 at about 58 per cent of the market, while hardcovers accounted for 24 per cent and ebook sales made up 15 per cent.

BookNet Canada president and CEO Noah Genner says early sales data from this year shows ebook sales are steady and no longer growing.

The report also found that most consumers still preferred to buy their books in stores rather than shopping online.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

15%

Ebook sales made up 15 per cent of overall book sales in 2012, based on surveys with 4,000 consumers.

Gigs in space

Sales of Hadfield's guitar go into orbit

Sales of a Vancouver-made guitar have skyrocketed since astronaut Chris Hadfield released a music video on May 12 of himself playing David Bowie's Space Oddity on the International Space Station. Guitar-maker Larrivee has since sold $100,000 worth of the three-quarter-size parlour guitar, prompting it to release a commemorative edition of its P-01 model.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Market Minute

DOLLAR
97.39¢ (+0.22¢)

TSX
12,742.43 (+129.38)

OIL
$96.16 US (-55¢)

GOLD
$1,377.60 US (-$6.50)

Natural gas: $4.19 US (+10¢)
Dow Jones: 15,387.58 (+52.30)

Going to the market to eat worms

Insects are shown for sale at a market in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in this file photo. Researchers say Thailand is showing the world how to respond to the global food crisis by raising bugs for eating. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization released a study and handbook Tuesday on what they call six-legged livestock — edible bugs and worms that can help meet global food demand that is expected to grow 60 per cent by 2050. The agency says they provide a rich source of protein, vitamins and minerals. The study was conducted in Thailand, where insects such as crickets, grasshoppers and bamboo worms have long been a part of diets, especially in rural areas.

UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Apple on hot seat over offshore tax strategies

Billions saved? CEO Tim Cook denies report that says company uses Irish subsidiaries to dodge U.S. taxes

Apple's CEO is disputing assertions by a Senate panel that the company avoids billions of dollars in U.S. taxes by shifting profits to foreign affiliates.

Tim Cook testified at a hearing Tuesday by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which released a report Monday attacking Apple's tax practices.

"We pay all the taxes we owe — every single dollar," Cook said. "We don't depend on tax gimmicks."

Cook, who is more accustomed to commanding a stage in front of investors and techies than facing a congressional committee, took a defensive tone with his opening statement. He punched out words when stressing the 600,000 jobs that the company supports while adding that Apple is the nation's largest corporate taxpayer. Cook advocated an overhaul of the U.S. tax code.

At the same time, Cook said he was happy to appear in the spotlight of a congressional hearing to be able to give Apple's side of the story.

"I'm saying it's who we are as people.... Wherever we are, we're an American company," Cook insisted when asked about Apple's use of affiliate companies in Ireland.

Quoted

"We pay all the taxes we owe — every single dollar. We don't depend on tax gimmicks."

Apple CEO Tim Cook, testifying before a U.S. Senate panel.

The $6 billion US in taxes that Apple says it paid in fiscal 2012 works out to $16 million a day.

The subcommittee's report estimates that Apple avoided at least $3.5 billion in U.S. federal taxes in 2011 and $9 billion in 2012 by using its tax strategy, and described a complex setup involving Irish subsidiaries as being a key element of this strategy.

But Cook said the Irish subsidiaries don't reduce the company's U.S. taxes at all. Rather, they manage cash earned overseas. If that cash were to be repatriated to the U.S., it would be subject to U.S. taxes.

Like other multinationals, Apple choses to keep cash overseas so as not to pay the 35 per cent U.S. corporate tax rate. Apple is holding overseas $102 billion of its total $145 billion in cash. Cook reaffirmed Apple's position that given current U.S. tax rates, it has no intention of repatriating its overseas profits to the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World's priciest pigeon defies EU crisis

Pigeons fly inside their coop at Pigeon Paradise in Knesselare, Belgium. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Flying high above Europe's economic crisis, a local lightning-fast pigeon called Bolt became the world's most expensive racing bird when his Belgian breeder sold it for about $410,000 to a Chinese businessman.

One-year-old Bolt, named after the Jamaican Olympic superstar sprinter Usain Bolt, and with an outstanding pedigree of proven champions to match, was the latest Belgian-bred pigeon to claim record prices.

Still, the selling price surprised everyone involved in the sport, auction house Pipa said. The previous record for a sale of a single bird stood at about $330,000 from January 2012.

"I was stunned by the prices offered," Pipa CEO Nikolaas Gyselbrecht said Tuesday. At a time when a crisis is holding Europe in an ever tighter grip, a feathered handful of prime fowl of some 450 grams is reaching unparalleled levels.

"One of the reasons there is no economic impact is that buyers are spread around the globe," Gyselbrecht said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RULE IS PAR FOR THE COURSE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Golf is one of those sports, like curling, that straddles the legitimate-activity fence.

To excel at golf, much skill is required.

To suck at golf, no skill is required. Believe me, I know.

At its highest level, golf is an exhibition of power, grace, skill and athleticism. At its lowest level — mine — it requires good timing so you can stop for snacks between the 9th and 10th hole without holding up the foursome behind you.

Golf is also susceptible to technology. Clubs now come with an adjustable loft, so you can dial up a shot as easily as hot soup from the microwave.

And golf balls are made of flubber — if you actually hit one, it goes a long way.

I've seen it done.

Push carts look like alien spacecraft with cup holders.

Golf has come far from the early days in Scotland when hairy, robust men used to stalk the bog with their mashie niblicks.

And if the belly putter is any indication, it's come too far.

The belly putter is a long-shafted club that you anchor (I'm not making this up) against your chest or belly, allowing for greater stability and therefore a better chance of getting the stupid little round ball in that stupid little round hole.

It looks pretty funny out here in Dufferville, but then what doesn't?

I once watched a guy take 12 shots to get his ball out of a sand trap. Then he calmly put his club back in the bag, picked up his ball, got into his cart and drove off the course, leaving his partner and the other members of his foursome slack-jawed with incredulity.

But the real problem is pro-level golf, where guys like Ernie Els, Adam Scott and Keegan Bradley have all gained a distinct advantage, and don't look good doing it.

It used to be that the biggest threat to golf's reputation was plaid pants, but as the belly or anchor putter bears an embarrassing resemblance to a crutch, it was obvious that it had to go.

As Tiger Woods so eloquently put it: "It should be mandatory to have to swing all 14 clubs."

That's easy for him to say. He actually has a swing. Most of us swing AT the ball, which is different.

So on Tuesday, golf banned the belly putter, effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Now it's up to the various pro tours and Dufferville to decide if they're going to swing free or die.

This is a hopeful sign that golf is pulling back from the brink of the absurd.

Who knows, maybe the golf lords will get staunch and ban the adjustable driver, which is kind of like having four or five extra clubs in your bag.

And once they get a firm grip on the clubs, how long before they take a swing at plaid pants?

ZOOM

Hang in there, little critters

RONALD WITTEK/ARCO IMAGES/SOLENT

Dangling by a tail

These adorable opossums haven't quite mastered their balance on this thin branch.

Thankfully, the baby marsupials managed to heave themselves to safety after a few minutes of clinging on.

The critters were spotted by nature photographer Ronald Wittek gathering around their mother's back on a game farm in Minnesota. For the photographer, the best part of the image is its composition.

"It was incredible to snap the marsupials in action," he said, adding that as adults they are too heavy and just use their tails to keep their balance. **METRO**

Quoted

"I don't think they panicked when they slipped. It reminded me of those funny animal posters or movies where creatures are in awkward spots. But it also demonstrated the animals' natural ability in their environment."

Ronald Wittek, professional photographer from Speyer, Germany

Click bait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Whether your cause du jour is boycotting GMCs or supporting LGBT equality, the Buycott app is your comrade in ethical arms. Hoping to help align consumerism with conscience, users scan a product's bar code to trace its family history — if the parent company's modus operandi matches the shopper's morals, the buyer is given a green light to consume with a clean conscience.

Partially inspired by a conceived-but-not-created app to help shoppers avoid products with the Koch family seal of approval, Buycott users can get the history of a product without loitering in the grocery store aisles for long periods of time doing a never-ending background check on a product.

While the largest campaign on the app is still the Koch boycott, user-submitted campaigns have growing followings too: supporting local craft beer has close to 2,000 members, avoiding sweatshops and child labour has nearly 13,000 and team anti-Splenda has more than 2,500 followers.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Beer is the norm after some marathons and obstacle courses. What do you think is the ideal way to recover from strenuous exercise?

@FrenchmanCanada: Cheer for people who are still running

@leeanne_yyc: May have to have one after the @CalgaryMarathon

@SarahFYasmin: Bacon, Chocolate and wine! I'll be having that after my marathon this Sunday May 26th!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Comments

RE: Should You Introduce Your Kids To Religion? Published May 5 online

I have struggled with religion myself. We are a same-sex family, one being born into the Muslim religion and the other into the Catholic. Neither of these religions has given us acceptance or support. We see religion as a club for the elite, and we unfortunately are not the elite. Why would we expose our child to something that is so judgmental and doesn't accept us? She will make her own decision when she is ready, as we cannot teach her something we don't believe ourselves.

Magz posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

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Paul Walker, left, Dwayne Johnson and Vin Diesel reunite for Fast and Furious 6, the latest installment of the global blockbuster franchise built on speed. HANDOUT

Burning that silly movie money by burning some serious rubber

Car chase movies. Fast and Furious 6 grabs the wheel this weekend but it's far from the only movie in its genre to hold the pole position

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

This weekend Fast and Furious 6, the latest high-octane installment of the car crazy franchise, hit screens.

Along with it will come squealing tires, revving engines and some of cinema's wildest car chases.

The auto chase is a movie staple, a tradition that dates back over 100 years of movie history.

The silent Keystone Cop films featured the first recorded car chases — a mix of slapstick, jalopies and rough-and-ready stunts — as far back as 1912.

Early Hollywood often played the chases for laughs. In The Bank Dick, W.C. Fields is taken hostage by a bank robber and forced to drive the getaway car.

In the chaotic chase that follows, the vehicle narrowly misses clipping the heads off bystanders as it flies over a ditch and slowly starts to disintegrate.

"The resale value of this car is going to be nil after you get over this trip," says Fields.

Emanuel Levy, an American film critic, said, "Bullitt contains one of the most exciting car chases in film history, a sequence that revolutionized Hollywood's standards."

Lasting just nine minutes and 42 seconds, the filming of the scene took three weeks pairing Steve McQueen's 1968 Ford Mustang 390 GT 2+2 Fastback against the villain's 1968 Dodge Charger 440 Magnum.

The chase was planned to run at 75 to 80 mph but ended up racing through the streets of San Francisco at speeds of more than 110 mph.

Several years later, The French Connection made Gene Hackman a star, won five Academy Awards and featured one of the greatest ever chase scenes.

The realistic looking chase was shot without permits on the streets of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.

The sequence got a little too realistic for one car owner.

A hapless driver, at the corner of Stillwell Ave. and 86th St., who was unaware a film was being shot, was side swiped by Hackman's car.

Director William Friedkin liked the shot and paid off the driver on the spot.

Chase sequences have gotten more expensive since the early '70s.

Gone are the days where director John Hough could stage a wild chase between a lime green '69 Dodge Charger and a helicopter in Dirty Mary Crazy Larry for peanuts.

John Moore, director of A Good Day To Die Hard starring Bruce Willis, says the chase scene in that movie cost $11 million.

They destroyed 132 cars, damaged another 518 and even flattened a Lamborghini. That one hurt, he said. "I'm a car fanatic."

Gregory Smith. Taking a Rookie run at directing the boys in Blue

It's no surprise, really, that Gregory Smith is directing episodes of the series he co-stars in, Rookie Blue. The Toronto-lensed cop drama returns for a fourth season May 23 on Global and ABC.

"He's a particular renaissance man," says Rookie Blue executive producer and showrunner Tassie Cameron. "He's one of those guys you discover suddenly that he's running some tech company out of his trailer, he's taking award-winning photographs from his travels to Africa ... he's just one of those people."

The Toronto-born, B.C.-raised actor, who turns 30 this summer, has been around TV and film sets almost his entire life. His father Maurice produced low-budget films and his teacher mother Terrea acted in some of them.

Before he was a teen, Smith was showing up on Vancouver-based TV shows such as The Commish, The Hat Squad and Highlander.

Over the years, he's also appeared in 25 films.

So when he was given an opportunity to become the first Rookie Blue cast member to direct last season, Smith jumped at it. He watched carefully the work of several directors, particularly executive producer David Wellington, studied their techniques and gave it a shot.

"That's basically how I learned everything as an actor," he says during an interview in his trailer on the set. "I was just a kid and I worked with these actors and I'd ask them questions and then something would work for me and I'd try to move forward with it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rookie Blue actor Gregory Smith is taking the director's reigns. HANDOUT

The Word

Does Brad Pitt suffer from face blindness?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Plenty of Hollywood stars probably have trouble remembering everyone they meet (they meet a lot of people).

Brad Pitt, however, thinks his poor memory might be an actual medical condition. He finds it nearly impossible to remember the faces of anyone he meets, he told Esquire.

For awhile, he tried being honest about his problem. "I took one year where I just said, This year, I'm just going to cop to it and say to people, 'OK, where did we meet?' But it just got worse. People were more offended. Every now and then, someone will give me context, and I'll say, 'Thank you for helping me.' But I piss more people off," the star says.

Brad says he's planning to get tested to find out if his forgetfulness is actually a mental condition called prosopagnosia, or face blindness. He has said that the condition means he doesn't go out anymore because of anxiety about the condition (and probably because he has six children).

So basically, Brad Pitt has a face everyone remembers whereas he can't remember anyone else's. Oh, the irony!

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

'Don't have a girlfriend,' dad advises Jaden Smith

Will Smith has clearly given son — and After Earth co-star — Jaden Smith a lot of advice, but one bit of wisdom sticks out: "Probably the best advice he's ever given me is, 'Don't have a girlfriend,'" Jaden tells E! News. "The stress is real." For his dad's part, it's less about stress and more about not closing yourself off to experiences. "Blending with another person is very difficult, and a lot of times you can lose yourself in the process," the elder Smith says. "So my encouragement to him is to be honest with anybody he interacts with. Don't make commitments that a 14-year-old can't live up to."

Will and Jaden Smith ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Twitter

@AnnaKendrick47
Wake up and play with me America!!!

@ZacharyQuinto
literally just going where they take me.

@TheRealRoseanne
i am thinking of the satanic presence of chuck lorre and how it is sucking all of the creativity of persons with souls from hollywood realm

@JossActual
Fans, thanks but I will never be comfortable with people calling me a "God". I would prefer you to call me a Muhammad and then NOT DRAW ME.

'The pregnancy rumour is false'

Jay-Z is eager to dispel rumours that his wife, Beyoncé, is pregnant — especially since they're proving particularly tough to kill. New York radio DJ Ebro Darden reached out to the rapper via email "to say congratulations, send my love to the fam," Darden said on his show. But what he got in response from Jay-Z was pretty direct and to the point: "It's not true," Jay-Z wrote back. "The pregnancy rumour is false."

Jay-Z

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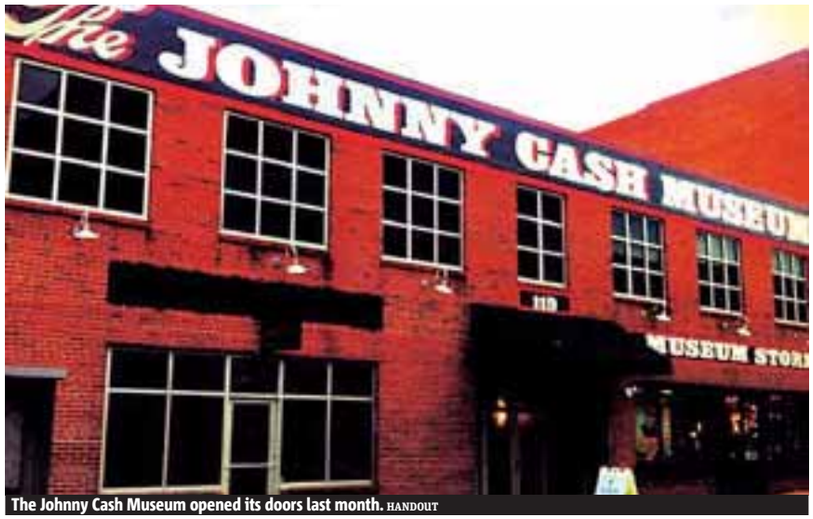
LIFE 3

Heat up your summer with some cool Nashville vibes

Not all country. While you might think it's a honky-tonk town, Nashville is a hub for all kinds of music, culture and tasty food

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
life@metronews.ca



The Johnny Cash Museum opened its doors last month. HANDOUT

You don't have to know how to two-step to fall for Nashville. The city recently rebranded itself from America's country music capital to Music City — and there's good reason.

It's a vibrant hub of up-and-coming singers, songwriters and musicians across genres, including pop, rock, gospel, bluegrass, jazz, classical, alt-country, blues and soul. And it offers an array of cultural, historical and foodie attractions that complement its musical backdrop.

Nashville has more than 120 live music venues; there's even a live music app (find it at musiccity.com) that uses your current location to tell you where to find the nearest live music venue.

No trip to Nashville is complete without a stop at the legendary Bluebird Cafe. This listening venue has been around for 30 years, where up-and-coming musicians and the "songwriters behind the hits" showcase their talents in an acoustic song circle for fans and music execs alike. It's an intimate venue (only 100 seats), so get there early or make reservations online at bluebirdcafe.com.

Even if you're not into country music, it's worth checking out the clubs on Honky Tonk Alley — a breeding ground for young, hopeful performers. You'll hear everything from rock to alt-country and might even get a sneak peak of the next big thing.

One of the most famous, long-running honky tonks is Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, where Willie Nelson and Patsy Cline used to hang out. Robert's Western Wear is a boot store by day and honky tonk by night, where you'll hear some of the world's best rockabilly. Or check out a show at the Grand Ole Opry, which began as a radio broadcast in 1925 and today serves as a live-entertainment venue honouring country music's legends and contemporary chart-toppers.

If you're a fan of Jack White, check out the Nashville location of his record label, Third Man Records, with a record store, live venue and analogue recording booth. Here you'll find an amazing collection of vinyl, most of which is produced by Jack White himself.

The newly opened Johnny Cash Museum is a tribute to the Man in Black — he's the only artist to have songs on the Billboard for six consecutive decades. With a treasure trove of memorabilia brought together under one roof, you'll find everything from Johnny's J-200 Gibson guitar to the lyrics he wrote in prison to Folsom Prison Blues (and the Grammy that came as a result). Visit johnnycashmuseum.net for more info.

Hipster hangout Hillsboro Village
VAWN HIMMELSBACH/METRO

Where to stay

The Hutton Hotel offers "elegance at ease" with hi-tech amenities, custom furnishings and contemporary luxury, right in the heart of Nashville. Blending sophistication with Southern hospitality, the hotel is also eco-friendly with LED lighting, recycling programs and sustainable bamboo flooring.

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Family trips

What to see this summer

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Just in time for your family vacation there are a number of attractions making their debut this summer.

Located at the foot of the Olympic stadium tower, Montreal's $48 million Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium houses two theatres: the Milky Way theatre, where visitors study and learn about the sky, and the more interactive Chaos Theatre. Visitors to the Chaos Theatre enjoy a 20-minute multimedia odyssey through the universe.

The complex includes numerous exhibits and the largest public collection of meteorites in Quebec.

Set to open later this summer, the Ripley's Aquarium of Canada is located at the base of Toronto's CN Tower and Rogers Centre.

The Aquarium will be one of the largest in North America, hosting 13,500 inhabitants, or approximately 450 species. The facility will feature a tropical reef tank and a 315-foot-long moving walkway, in a see-through tunnel, below a shark lagoon inhabited by sand tiger sharks.

If you are looking to enjoy nature this summer, you no longer need a car to get to the front gates of Ontario's best-loved outdoor retreats. The Park Bus has added a number of new routes this summer, including Fathom Five National Marine Park, taking customers directly from downtown Toronto to backcountry access points where you can hook up with outfitters and start your outdoor adventure.

FlyOver Canada at Vancouver's iconic Canada Place is getting lots of great buzz. Housed in the former IMAX theatre, it incorporates the latest in virtual flight-ride technology and is the first of its kind in the country. Up to 60 guests are strapped in their seats and elevated in front of a 20-metre-wide, sphere-shaped screen before embarking on a virtual 4D experience across the country. The adventure showcases a mix of seasons, magnificent landscapes and vibrant colours, all enhanced by wind, scents, mist and sound.

Named after world-renowned Canadian artist Robert Bateman, and located in the historic CPR Steamship Building in Victoria's Inner Harbour, the Robert Bateman Centre features educational space, a retail store and a gallery housing approximately 130 of his masterpieces, from his classic B.C. pieces to his famed Africa collection. Check out the collection of 36 of Bateman's bird pieces where, when visitors run their hands over the painting labels, the appropriate bird sounds resonate in the gallery.

A look at the best of the biggest fests

Summer sounds. If you only go to one concert this summer, a festival is going to give you the most bang for your buck

Buy a bus ticket with your concert ticket. Here are a few festivals that are worthy of camping and getting a little muddy.

Boston Calling

May 26-26, Boston, Mass. Amidst the brutalist architecture of Boston's once-maligned Government Center, this inner city festival marks its first year with performances from F.U.N. The Shins, The National and the Walkmen, as well as locals Caspian and Bad Rabbits. The festival is co-curated by The National's Aaron Dessner. bostoncalling.com

Will you meet the love of your life at Bonnarro? YARDEENA2009/FLICKR

Newport Folk Fest

July 27-28 , Newport, R.I. This onetime purist folk fest in Fort Adams State Park features Beck, Feist, Will Oldham and Dawn McCarthy. newportfolkfest.net

Lollapalooza

Aug. 2-4, Chicago, Ill. The granddaddy of the modern festival once again draws the biggest names to the Windy City. Goth originators The Cure, stoner rockers Queens of the Stone Age and Manchester ravers New Order are joined by soulman Charles Bradley and new folkies The Lumineers. lollapalooza.com

Bonnaroo

June 13-16, Manchester, Tenn. You never know who you'll meet at Bonnaroo: According to legend, Kings of Leon drummer Nathan met his wife Jesse in the potty line. Needless to say, it's huge and romantic and this year's three-and-a-half-day lineup includes desert drifters Calexico, Paul McCartney and Wu-Tang Clan's Friday night spot is high on many to-do lists. bonnaroo.com

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85695 KMS

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WHY VISIT DOWNTOWN?

By Jason Menard

Downtown London means many things to different people in the Forest City. Searching for the success of its distant past, the downtown is often tainted by its less-than-stellar intermediate past. But today's downtown is enjoying a revival that has led to a unique mix of entertainment, retail, and dining unlike anything else in the city.

"It's not just a transaction, it's an experience," explained Janette MacDonald, executive director of Downtown London, a organization dedicated to improving the experience within the downtown core.

"There are still going to be some Negative Nellies," MacDonald added."But the attitude is much more positive downtown."

MacDonald points not just to critical assets like the now 10-year-old Budweiser Gardens, but also the shared efforts of organizations like the London Economic Development Corporation, Tourism London, the Convention Centre, and the London Arts and Heritage Councils to attract business and visitors to the core.

And while the tourist traffic – such as those who attended recent marquee events like the World Figure Skating Championships – is important, MacDonald said the key to long-term sustainability and growth is to get Londoners to embrace the opportunities they have in the core.

"It's great to have tourists, but we need to have locals be clients of downtown," she said. "The best way to experience it is to live here or work here."

The variety of restaurants, entertainment options, festivals, and shopping opportunities, combined with the fact that more and more Londoners are coming downtown to work offers a good foundation for future growth. And MacDonald has some very specific ideas as to how to continue to make downtown London's destination.

"Want to see some of the parking lots developed into multi-use facilities. We need to increase the density of the downtown," she said. "We need a mix of more affordable, accessible rental units; we need more expensive centres. And we need more of everything in between.

"We need to give people places where they can practice business, like a Centre of Social Innovation."

And those who haven't seen a decade's worth of changes in downtown London are missing out, she added. "There has been a tremendous change over the past 10 years," she said. "When you look at revitalization, it's been a great job."

DOWNTOWN ATTRACTIONS

PHOTO: GLOBAL SPECTRUM

By Jason Menard

Whether you're interested in finding a place to play, a place to stay, a place to meet, or a place to eat, downtown London's likely has exactly what you're looking for. And for the past decade, the heart of the core can be found on the corner of Talbot and King Streets, at the Budweiser Garden.

"There's a big picture to all of this," explained Chris Campbell, director of marketing for Global Spectrum at the Budweiser Gardens. "There's a huge economic spinoff. It has really transformed the city and downtown dramatically.

"I can't imagine anything that's had its impact."

While the Budweiser Gardens may be downtown's shining star, there are plenty of equally important venues and facilities in its orbit that are combining to turn downtown London into a destination for tourists and locals alike.

"I think that we're part of the big picture, which involves a lot of other parts. It's a lot of things working together," he said. "Look at the other moving parts: Orchestra London, the Grand Theatre, the festivals – we've raised our status to the point where we're giving people from out of town a reason to stay for a night or a weekend.

"They can go to a concert one night, a festival the next, and maybe a play at the Grand Theatre. That wasn't there a decade ago."

Combining the ability to draw marquee shows like Pearl Jam (who is playing one of only two North American shows at the Budweiser Gardens) with other forms of entertainment, outstanding dining, and hotel accommodations has changed the perception of the Forest City.

"We're no longer in the shadows of Toronto," he said. "Instead of driving to Toronto and staying in a hotel, now Londoners can just hop in a cab.

"The decision now isn't about 'should we go to Toronto,' but 'Where are we going to go before the show? Where can we get drinks after? We're part of the conversation now."

Within walking distance, downtown visitors can get to museums, the Covent Garden market, the Grand Theatre, and Victoria Park. At all points in between, there are countless dining options offering a unique variety of cuisines.

"It provides an overall entertainment experience – it's about more than just the event itself," Campbell said. "We're giving people more of a reason to come downtown and experience the city."

HISTORY OF KINGSMILL'S

Kingsmill's – a London institution for nearly 150 years – puts a unique spin on the concept of family first.

"The commitment is just extreme," explained Laurie Kingsmill, laughing. "There is no line between business and family.

"My husband explained that to me when we first started dating. I asked, 'What do you mean?' and he said, 'You'll see.'"

Laurie's husband, Timothy Frederick Kingsmill, is the great-great grandson of the company's founder Thomas Frazer Kingsmill. Laurie is now responsible for the company's on-line operations, Web sales, and social media efforts. She's also become the family archivist.

"We're publishing a book about the history of the company," she said. "It has taken me several years of working with my father-in-law [Fred] to go through boxes of stuff," she said, adding that the new book will be a comprehensive look at the family's history, warts – including politics, kidnappings, and other scandals – and all.

- Jason Menard

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DOWNTOWN DINING

If variety is the spice of life, downtown London features a unique blend of seasoning from all around the world.

And the diversity is more than just about quantity – it's about quality.

"We have the most chef-operated restaurants in the city," explained Janette MacDonald, the executive director of Downtown London. "You're not forced to have pre-frozen, pre-packaged meals. Many are prepared using fresh ingredients."

For a city that's long been saddled with an old-and-white reputation, the diversity of downtown dining is reflective of a changing demographic.

"I find potency in London's downtown culinary scene because of the endless options for authentic ethnic cuisine," explained Brian Blatnicki, a marketing consultant for Kantina Restaurant, which specializes in Balkan-inspired cuisine. "Not many cities can pride themselves on this and it is not a characteristic that can be created, copied, or forced.

"In London it comes naturally because our city is made up of immigrants from all over the world. The multi-cultural population continues to grow, which continues to enrich our downtown food scene."

During the recent World Figure Skating Championships, efforts were made to showcase the core's artistic, cultural, entertainment, and dining diversity under the Canada's London umbrella. It's food blogger, Max Specht, explained the downtown's combination of densely packed diversity left an impression.

"When people go out to eat in general, convenience is the key and what could be more convenient than a large collection of diverse restaurants within about six city blocks?" Specht explained. "The most underrated part about eateries in London is that they are so different – there is always something for everyone.

"All it takes for me to exemplify this is by imagining one street in London, where you can find crepes, Thai food and Caribbean food," says MacDonald.

- Jason Menard

PHOTO: DOWNTOWN LONDON

NASH JEWELLERS

For nearly a century, Nash Jewellers has been adding a sparkle to the Forest City. And for all of its history, it's been headquartered right in the heart of the downtown core. Don't expect that to change any time soon.

"It's a unique shopping experience," explained Colin Nash, the fourth-generation co-owner (along with this father) of Nash Jewellers. "It's 95 years of history and tradition – you can feel it when you walk in the door.

"You can't just let that go."

Nash Jewellers has been a mainstay of downtown London for nearly a century and the family has seen booms and busts. This family-owned jewellery retailer has seen it all.

"It's cyclical. We had some incredible times in the 70s and 80s in the downtown area," he explained. "Now the momentum is coming back with the arrival of Fanshawe College, the [Budweiser Gardens], and new facades on the buildings – including our own."

The company has embraced a culture of innovation since day one. The store has expanded over the years to other parts of the city. In the 1970s, Nash opened a location in the Oakridge area. More recently they opened up Nash's North in Masonville Corner. But no matter where the company expands, Colin Nash affirmed the downtown core is where the family's heart lies.

- Jason Menard

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Smuggle vegetables onto the warm weather menu with Summer Rolls

1. To make the dipping sauce, in a food processor or blender combine the peanut butter, hoisin, 2 tablespoons lime juice, scallions, soy sauce, sesame oil, hot sauce and water. Puree until smooth. Taste and add more lime juice or hot sauce if desired, and additional water if necessary to thin the sauce to a good dipping consistency. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.

2. To prepare rolls, in a small bowl combine the rice vinegar, sugar and a hefty pinch of salt. Whisk until the salt and sugar are dissolved. Add the carrots and cabbage and toss well. Set aside.

3. Fill a large bowl with hot water. Add 1 rice paper wrapper to the water and let soak for 10 to 15 seconds, or until just barely soft and pliable. Lay the wrapper flat on the counter. In the centre of the wrapper, place a small, oblong mound of the carrot-cabbage mixture, then top with a bit each of jicama, bell pepper and snow peas. Top with 2 mint leaves.

4. To fold the roll, start by folding the right and left sides of the wrapper over the fillings. Next, fold the end closest to you up over the fillings and sides. Holding the roll firmly, roll it away from you until the remaining wrapper is completely rolled up. Transfer the roll, seam side down, to a plate and cover with a damp paper towel. Repeat with the remaining wrappers and fillings.

5. The vegetable rolls can be made up to 4 hours ahead, covered with a damp paper towel and plastic wrap and chilled. Serve with the dipping sauce.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Ingredients

For the dipping sauce:
- 3/4 cup smooth unsalted natural peanut butter
- 1/2 cup hoisin sauce
- 2 to 3 tbsp lime juice
- 2 scallions, white and green parts, coarsely chopped
- 1 tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- Hot sauce, to taste
- 2 tbsp water

For the rolls:
- 1 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1/2 tsp sugar
- Kosher salt
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 cup shredded Napa cabbage
- Sixteen 8-inch rice paper wrappers
- 1/2 medium jicama, cut into julienne strips (about 1 cup)
- 1 cup thinly sliced red bell pepper strips
- 1 cup blanched and thinly sliced snow peas
- 32 large fresh mint leaves

Fresh Summer Rolls with Spicy Peanut Dipping Sauce

This recipe makes 16 rolls. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Joie de vivre

- 4 thinly sliced cucumber slices
- 1.5 oz Grey Goose La Poire
- .25 oz freshly squeezed lime juice
- .5 oz simple syrup
- 3/4 oz Prosecco

Add 3 cucumber slices to a shaker and muddle. Add ice, La Poire, lime juice and simple syrup. Shake well. Add Prosecco into a champagne flute then pour cocktail over top. Garnish with a cucumber slice.

RECIPES & PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREY GOOSE LOUNGE AT MUZIK IN TORONTO

Serve up a hot-off-the-grill taste of the Mediterranean

Taken from the new edition of the Griller's Handbook (by Broil King) this recipe provides an excellent base for grilled pizza, with options to change toppings for your flavour preference.

1. Lightly oil pizza crust on both sides using olive oil.

2. Place chicken, and vegetables on pizza dough as desired. Sprinkle generously with crumbled feta cheese. Drizzle with balsamic vinaigrette and sprinkle chopped fresh basil over pizza to taste.

This thin crust pie will impress anyone. NEWS CANADA

3. Specially designed for pizza, Broil King recommends its Stone Grill Set. Place it in the centre of your barbecue's cooking grids. Turn all burners to high and preheat grill to 400 - 600 F. Reduce temperature to medium/medium-high to maintain a temperature around 450 F.

4. Using a well-floured pizza peel, slide the uncooked pizza onto the pizza stone.

5. Check the pizza frequently — depending on thickness of crust, this will take between 8 and 20 minutes.

6. Pizza is ready when cheese has melted and bottom is browned. Remove from pizza stone with the wooden pizza peel.

7. Allow the stone to cool completely before attempting to remove from grill.

NEWSCANADA/ BROILKINGBBQ.COM

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 pizza crust (thin home-made or thin pre-made)
- 1 boneless chicken breast (pre-grilled)
- Kalamata olives – remove pits
- Sun dried tomato
- Red onion
- Crushed chopped garlic to taste
- 200 g feta cheese
- 3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- Fresh basil

Lunch. Aussie Burger

1. Combine mayonnaise and chipotle sauce and spread on hamburger bun. Set aside.

2. Grill beef patty on high until no longer pink in centre. Place pineapple rings on grill. Grill 1 minute per side, then remove. Place 1/2 of pickles, 1/2 of beets and 2 slices of pineapple on bottom bun. Top with burger and remaining pickles and pineapple. Melt butter in small skillet. Fry egg until crispy and brown. Place on top of burger toppings and replace bun. NEWS CANADA/BICKS.CA

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15ml) mayonnaise
- 1 tsp (5ml) chipotle sauce
- 1 hamburger bun
- 1 beef patty
- 3 slices peeled and cored pineapple rings
- 2 slices of crunchy Sandwich Savers Extra Garlic Pickles
- 4 slices of Bick's Sliced Beets, drained
- 1 tsp (5ml) butter
- 1 egg

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RACHEL MCKEE
TalentEgg.ca

Managers want ambitious people like you on their team and they always want to give you more responsibility. So speak up! ISTOCK

A few months ago, a good friend of mine approached me about an internal job posting within his organization for which he was interested in applying.

He had been a video editor within this sports broadcasting company for four years and definitely needed more responsibility, a new challenge and something to give him renewed excitement about the organization and his field. He was hesitant to apply, as he'd been told that the individuals hiring already had someone in mind for the position and he felt that a fair amount of the job description was out of his skill set, as the job required producing experience. I encouraged him to apply regardless, as it would show upper management that he was looking to make lateral and/or vertical moves within the organization, that he wanted to be given more leadership opportunities and that he was looking to grow within this field. Ultimately, there was no harm in applying. His superiors wouldn't even know he was interested in the position if he didn't apply and likely hadn't considered him as a possibility for the job — not because he wasn't qualified or capable, but because he hadn't voiced any interest until this point. If you don't ask, you don't get.

My friend applied for the position and within two days he heard back from the hiring manager for the position. He had an interview three days later and, what do you know? He got the job! Two weeks later he set off on a month of travelling across Canada filming the fourth season of this station's signature show. He had new responsibilities, new networking opportunities, and the chance to learn new skills within his field — and he could not have been more pumped to get started! None of this would have happened if he had settled for the status quo and hadn't voiced his interest in this exciting new opportunity. He Spoke Up!

Think of it this way: it's more efficient and cost effective to teach a new skill to an eager, existing employee than to hire someone new to fill the gap. You'll be surprised to see the opportunities that become available to you by showing this initiative, enthusiasm and dedication in your organization.

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- Arrange a meeting with your manager/supervisor to discuss your long-term career vision
- Talk to your boss about ways for you to get more involved in your organization
- Apply for internal job postings
- Request to be put on certain project teams
- Tell your boss you are looking for more responsibility or that you want to acquire new skills — be specific!

Opportunities to open up your yapper

Whether you're volunteering, have a part-time job, contract position, or are fully employed, it's important to speak up when you want to:

- Gain more experience
- Learn new skills
- Make a lateral move in your organization
- Get promoted
- Be given new opportunities
- Tackle a specific project
- Join a project team
- Be given more responsibility
- Take on a leadership role

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NHL

Roy could be Avs' next coach: Reports

Patrick Roy and Joe Sakic formed a productive partnership on the ice during their playing days, leading the Colorado Avalanche to two Stanley Cup titles.

Patrick Roy
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Now, Avalanche fans are hoping they're reunited to steer the foundering franchise back to the glory days. According to reports, the Hall of Fame goaltender could possibly be in line to become the next coach.

Roy's younger brother, Stephane Roy, posted a Facebook note late Monday night saying his brother would be the new coach. Stephane Roy later told The Denver Post: "They're discussing the final details of an arrangement."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cycling

Respiratory problem sidelined Hesjedal in Italy

Canadian cyclist Ryder Hesjedal is recovering from a respiratory tract infection that forced him to pull out of the Giro d'Italia.

Hesjedal's Garmin-Sharp team revealed Tuesday that the Victoria native developed an upper respiratory tract infection during the race, which he won in 2012. He has returned to his home in Girona, Spain, since pulling out on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard stops a shot from Blackhawks forward Viktor Stalberg as defenceman Carlo Colaiacovo gives chase on Monday night in Detroit. PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wings' surprise surge powered by Howard

NHL playoffs. Stellar goaltending has Detroit feeling confident and Chicago in a post-season predicament

Jimmy Howard's cat-quick reflexes in net and easygoing nature out of it are big reasons the Detroit Red Wings are on a roll.

Howard has held top-seeded Chicago to only one goal in two straight games, lifting seventh-seeded Detroit to a 2-1 series lead. He was the star of the end-to-end, high-paced Game 3 the Red Wings won 4-1 on Monday night, when he became their first goalie to face at least 40 shots without giving up more than a goal in the playoffs since Greg Stefan did it 1987.

"That was probably the fastest playoff game I've ever been a part of," Howard said. "I expect it just to get faster Thursday night. They're going to step it up. We need to come even harder."

Detroit will host Game 4 on Thursday night, shooting for a surprising win that would put Chicago on the brink of elimination.

Howard's glove, pads and mindset give the Red Wings a shot to win every time they suit up. Since Detroit trailed second-seeded Anaheim 3-2 in the first round, Howard has won four of five games and is averaging two goals against and 34-plus saves.

"You have to have a good goalie to go anywhere in the playoffs and we have it," Red Wings captain Henrik Zetterberg said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not ready to throw Crawford overboard for Emery

Chicago's Cory Crawford won five of his first six games in the playoffs, shutting out Minnesota once and allowing a total of eight goals during his strong start. But he has given up a combined seven goals over the last two games after allowing one goal in the first period of the series opener.

- Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville didn't want to discuss the possibility of going to backup Ray Emery.
- "We're not talking about that right now," Quenneville said on Monday night. And the next day, he was succinct when asked to assess how Crawford has played the past few games. "He's been fine," Quenneville said.

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Bryan Colangelo selected Andrea Bargnani with the No. 1 draft pick in the 2006 draft, then staunchly supported the Italian for the majority of his seven underwhelming seasons in Toronto. The selection was one of Colangelo's biggest blunders as Raptors GM. ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Bargnani bust broke Raptors GM's back

NBA. MLSE CEO drops Colangelo from top job but says keeping him on as president 'in everyone's best interest'

Bryan Colangelo fought "like heck" to stay on as president and general manager of the Toronto Raptors. It was enough to save one of his jobs.

The Raptors announced Tuesday that they will not pick up the option year on Colangelo's contract as general manager. However, the team is extending Colangelo's term as president and he will report directly to Tim Leiweke, the new CEO of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment.

While Colangelo will still be available to the new general manager for guidance and input, Leiweke made it quite clear that somebody else will have the final say on the team's day-to-day basketball operations.

Biting his lip

"I'm disappointed.... But I'm thrilled and excited to be putting the finishing touches on a team that I think is well on its way to being competitive."

Bryan Colangelo, who was named the NBA's executive of the year in 2007.

"Do I understand that's going to tax Bryan a little bit? One-hundred per cent," Leiweke said on a conference call Tuesday. "But I think given the circumstances we found ourselves in, the timing of the decision.... I believe it is in everyone's best interest to make this work.

"There's no probably, (Bryan's) ticked off at me. This isn't his perfect world either. But to his credit he accepts it."

The team hopes to appoint a new GM, who will have "final authority on all basketball-related decisions," within the next 30 days.

There have been reports the Raptors are targeting Denver GM Masai Ujiri, who worked under Colangelo as Toronto's assistant GM from 2008 to 2010.

"I know there's been huge debate about whether or not Bryan has the wherewithal to step aside and allow the GM to do their job and make the final decisions," Leiweke said. "He clearly understands that's the way it's going to be."

Andrea Bargnani will go down as Colangelo's biggest blunder. The 2006 first overall pick has failed to live up to expectations.

Colangelo said he looked to trade Bargnani this season, but his trade value dropped after he suffered an elbow injury.

"It's something you look back on and say 'How would you handle that differently?' I'm not sure I would," Colangelo said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Demoted in Raptorland

Falling down the front-office depth chart

CATHAL KELLY
Special to Metro

As first days on the new job go, this was the equivalent of being given an office in a utility closet and warned never to leave it.

Bryan Colangelo was unveiled Tuesday as the old/new Raptors president. He loses his GM role and almost all of his power. Once the new GM is installed, Colangelo has been warned not to interfere with him. He reports directly to new MLSE CEO Tim Leiweke.

How exactly will that work, one wonders?

Bryan to Tim: 'I think we should trade X for Y.'

Tim to GM: 'Here's what Bryan suggests.'

GM to Tim: 'Tell Bryan to mind his own business.'

Tim to Bryan: 'He says he'll think about it.'

GO TO METRONEWS.CA/VOICES FOR MORE OF CATHAL KELLY'S TAKE ON THE RAPTORS.

Montreal Expos. Street by former MLB stadium named after hall-of-famer

A stretch of road in front of the stadium where he began his Hall of Fame career has been renamed in honour of former Montreal Expos catcher Gary Carter.

Signs indicating Rue Gary-Carter were already in place on Tuesday as municipal officials announced the renaming of Faillon Street West after the most popular player in the history of the defunct National League baseball club.

"It was here at Jarry Park that the player affectionately known as Kid began his major league career," said Laurent Blanchard, chairman of the city's executive committee, told a small gathering of officials and fans, some wearing caps and shorts with the Expos' red, white and blue logo.

"He was an idol who touched the heart of Montrealers and inspired many young athletes."

A larger celebration is planned for June 15, when Ahuntsic baseball park in the city's north end will be named for Carter, who died on Feb. 16, 2012 of brain cancer at 57.

Carter's wife, Sandy, and other family members were not able to attend the street renaming because they only learned of it this week, but they are expected to be at the ball park ceremony.

Montreal has changed the name of Faillon Street to Gary Carter Street in honour of former Expos Hall of Famer Gary Carter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The western section of Faillon street runs in front of the stadium the Expos called home for the first eight years of their existence from 1969 to 1976, before moving to the domed Olympic Stadium.

Jarry Park stadium has since been converted into Uniprix Stadium, a tennis facility.

Carter made his Expos debut there in September 1974.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Golf

Associations ban anchored putting

Golf's two governing bodies outlawed the anchored putting stroke used by four of the last six major champions, approving a new rule that starts in 2016 and urging the PGA Tour to follow along so the 600-year-old sport is still played under one set of rules.

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club and the U.S. Golf Association adopted Rule 14-1b, which prohibits players from anchoring a club against their bodies.

"We strongly believe that this rule is for the betterment of the game," USGA president Glen Nager said. "Rule 14-1b protects one of the important challenges in the game — the free swing of the entire club."

The decision Tuesday ends six months of sometimes rancorous debate. The rule was opposed by the PGA Tour and the PGA of America, which contended the stroke commonly used for long putters was not hurting the game and there was no statistical proof that it was an advantage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woods, Garcia continue to tee off on each other

Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia don't like each other, and they're making no effort to disguise their feelings.

The verbal feuding began May 11 during the third round of The Players Championship. It resumed this week on both sides of the Atlantic when Woods offered a one-word answer if he thought about contacting Garcia to put the matter to rest.

"No," he replied with a tight smile.

Garcia fired back at a sponsor function outside London.

"He called me a whiner. That's probably right," he told reporters. "It's also probably the first thing he's told you guys that's true in 15 years. I know what he is like. You guys are finding out."

Garcia tried to tone down the barbs Tuesday at the BMW Championship when asked about the spat.

"I can't like everybody and there's people that you connect with and there's people that you don't," Garcia said at Wentworth. "He doesn't need me in his life, I don't need him in mine and let's move on and keep doing what we're doing.

Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia at TPC Sawgrass on May 11 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. RICHARD HEATHCOTE/GETTY IMAGES

There's never really been a true connection I would have with maybe Luke (Donald) or Adam Scott or some of the other guys that I get along with well.

"I think we should kind of move on and forget — well, it will be difficult to forget — but kind of move on about what happened."

Disputes among golfers are nothing new, though it's rare for two high-profile players to go at each other through the media.

The animosity between them goes as far back as 2000, when Garcia beat Woods in the Monday night exhibition "Battle at Bighorn" and celebrated as if he had won something much more important. Two years later in the U.S. Open at Bethpage Black, where Woods won wire-to-wire, Garcia complained that the second round should have been halted because of rain and that "if Tiger Woods would have been out there, it would have been called." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Space out in the 2014 Fiat 500L

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2014 Fiat 500L

- **Type.** Four-door front-wheel drive compact wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 1.4-litre SOHC I4, turbocharged (160hp)
- **Transmissions.** Six speed manual, six speed twin clutch automated manual
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $26,000

Design

Physically, the 500L shares nothing with the 500 two-door, but it does exude a saucy character that's unmistakably Fiat. What really sticks out as unique are the 500L's double windshield pillars that are separated by a glass panel. Interesting, but there will likely be some criticism over forward visibility.

The dash and front interior.

Fuel Economy

As of press time, fuel-economy numbers haven't been released, but a good guesstimate would be 7.8 l/100 km in the city and 5.2 on the highway for versions with the six-speed stick.

Engine

Fiat wisely chose not to install the 500's 101-horsepower 1.4-litre four-cylinder in North American versions of the 500L. Instead, the standard powerplant is the turbocharged 1.4 used in the sporty 500 Abarth. The engine pumps out 160 horsepower and 184 pound-feet of torque.

Review. Fiat 500 gets a makeover to become roomier automobile

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Fiat means business and that means making the 500 more appealing to North American small-car buyers by giving them more of what they really, really want. That's where the all-new 500L enters the picture.

Sure, the original "Cinquecento" two-door hatchback and its semi-convertible Cabrio and Abarth offshoots are kind of adorable. But let's face it; any car that's 15 centimetres shorter than a Mini Cooper is bound to be a tight fit, especially for anyone occupying the back seat. That's why the brand-extending Mini Clubman and Countryman were created and it's for the same reason that the four-door 500L will debut early this summer.

Making over the 500 to become the 500L meant employing a larger version of the 500's platform, called "small-wide." The tale of the tape reveals a gain of about 70 centimetres in overall length, about 15 centimetres in width and height and slightly more than 30 centimetres between the front and rear wheels, resulting in 42 per cent greater interior volume. You can almost hear six-footer-plus-types across the land cheering at this news.

The 500L is also somewhat larger than its nearest rival, the four-door Mini Cooper Countryman, which translates into considerably more passenger and luggage room.

Fiat has also fashioned the rear seat to accommodate three people, for a total of five (the Countryman is limited to four), although it will help if the meat-in-the-sandwich occupant is less than adult sized. Both the front and the 60:40 split rear seat can be folded when extra cargo space is called for.

The rest of the 500L's interior is more modernistic than that of the 500 and features twin gauge pods in place of a single multi-purpose unit.

The spacey 500L has a flattering side profile.

As well, the L's shifter is floor-mounted instead of being angled directly below the dashboard. It's also a bit early to discuss standard and optional features, but what is known is that the 500L will be offered in Pop, Easy, Trekking and Lounge models. Unfortunately, all-wheel drive is not on the Trekking's build sheet, which pretty much limits where you can actually trek to.

Other up-level equipment includes a panoramic glass sunroof, enlarged touch-screen controls for the audio, communications and navigation systems and a premium Beats by Dr. Dre audio system.

Pricing is expected to come in at about $26,000 for base models but could reach into the $30,000 range when the automatic transmission and other popular options are factored in. Those are reasonable fees for an Italian-bred wagon that won't cramp your style, or you for that matter, while providing an abundance of style that matches its carrying capacity.

Compare

1 Mini Cooper Countryman
Base price: $28,000

2 Honda Fit
Base price: $16,000

3 Chevrolet Sonic RS Turbo
Base price: $25,100

5 DRIVE

Exhausted by your noisy tail pipe?

Auto Know. The patented Corsa design is eliminating the drone and promoting an all-round quieter driving experience

Quoted

"I love it, it's perfect. It's quiet when it needs to be and no drone at all."

2007 Mustang GT owner Gilles Belliveau reacted positively to the installation of a new Corsa exhaust on his vehicle

JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.ca

With half the job done on the Mustang GT (above) the Corsa muffler on the right is more compact and looks more finished than the stock unit. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

Ask anyone. Spending money on a new exhaust system is mostly about the sound. If you pick up a bit of extra power, that's just a bonus.

But it's also risky business for buyers with hundreds of dollars or maybe even $1,000-$1,500 on the line.

It took 2007 Mustang GT owner Gilles Belliveau many months to make up his mind and all the usual questions came into play. The most important, even ahead of price: will it have the right sound?

It's a very personal "style" sort of thing, and to make matters worse, buyers can't really hear, exactly, how a new system will sound until after it has been bought, shipped and put on the car. But by then there is no turning back if you made the wrong choice: you're stuck with it.

"You can listen to cars on Youtube.com with the same system you want, or hear sound clips at the websites of some companies but you just don't really know for sure how it will sound until it's on your car," says Belliveau, an investment manager who routinely takes his Mustang on weekend road trips.

Belliveau twists the key of the blue convertible and the 4.6-litre-V8 rips a tinny cackle and pops a few times before settling into a pleasant "blub, blub, blub."

"I love it. It's perfect."

Perfect sound in this case has an interesting twist. In fact, it's the lack of sound that's so impressive with this Corsa-brand system.

Cruising down the freeway in the passenger seat, you soon realize that the exhaust is not making any sound ... at all. Even less than the factory exhaust.

"It's quiet when it needs to be."

No kidding.

Crack the throttle and it comes to life. Settle back into cruise mode and there's just the rush of wind.

"See, there's no drone at all." Ah, yes, the dreaded five-letter "D" word.

It might seem like a small deal but a droning exhaust can become incredibly annoying as it drowns out conversation and the stereo, both of which require elevated volume levels to be heard. And pardon the pun but a droning exhaust system is just plain exhausting.

It's bad enough that you run the risk of drone — or, major drone — when you buy an expensive upgraded exhaust system, but sometimes even the factory that built your car doesn't always get it right. Owners of the V6 Camaro might know this feeling. Wheelbase Media's recent testing found the car enjoyable but that it also exhibited a tiring low-frequency exhaust drone at highway speeds.

By contrast, Craig Kohrs' kids can sleep in the back of his full-size sport-utility vehicle and not be woken up by the Corsa exhaust system.

"In fact, I'm doing 20 mph and talking to you on my Bluetooth phone."

And he's clear as a bell for this interview with no exhaust system killing the call.

Kohrs just happens to be vice president and general manager of TMG Performance Products, which manages the Corsa brand.

So, how does the company do it? Where many mufflers use a series of internal bends, baffles and packing, such as fibreglass, to muffle the exhaust noise, a Corsa system is a totally different animal.

Look in one end of the muffler and you can see straight out the other, which makes you wonder how it could be so quiet. And then you pick it up. Watch your back. The heft of a Corsa muffler is due to a myriad of small chambers that completely cancel out sound at certain frequencies. Thus, no highway drone. It's patented technology that the company has been perfecting since 1998.

Quoted

"(Corsa staff are) energetic, passionate ... most of the people here love what we do ... they're into the whole driving experience."

Craig Kohrs, manager of TMG Performance Products
On his staff's dedication to their jobs.

Where other companies offer systems that fit certain cars, they'll often use the same basic muffler from car to car.

With Corsa, there are no generic systems as each vehicle has its own unique set of frequencies. There's even a system specifically tuned for that V6 Camaro and one for the latest 662-horsepower Mustang Shelby GT500.

Wow, that was fast.

"If we put all our resources on a project, development time is as fast as 30 days," says Kohrs.

Like most companies that think fast and sweat the small details, a tight development loop and a good product depends on the people.

"(Corsa staff are) energetic, passionate ... most of the people here love what we do ... they're into the whole driving experience."

The systems are made of high-grade stainless steel to last the life of the vehicle and most bolt in with simple hand tools.

Kohrs says that a typical Corsa system for the Chevrolet Corvette — which is a large market — can be installed in just seven minutes. None of this all-day-long business.

It took a little longer for us with Belliveau's Mustang but 30 minutes is still respectable for this axle-back exhaust-system change.

As for power, some basic stopwatch testing averaged 15 sprints in third gear from 3,000-5,500 rpm, before and after the exhaust change. The improvement was about three tenths of a second (8.6 seconds with Corsa versus 8.9 with the stock exhaust).

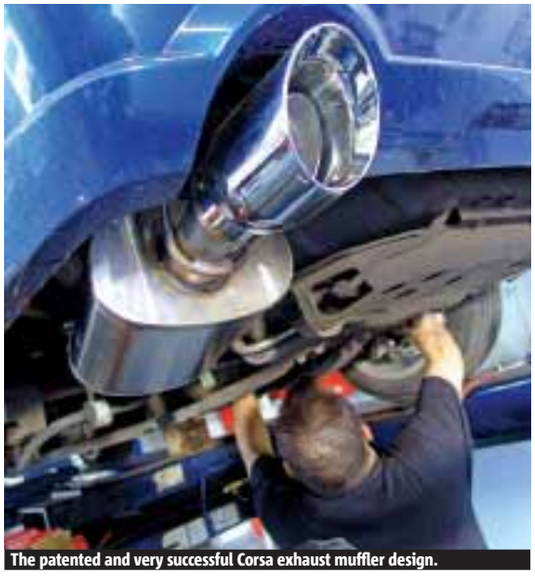
Regardless of the watch, "It definitely feels stronger," says Belliveau, "and the engine used to rattle and ping a bit ... that's gone."

According to Kohrs, Belliveau is just getting going as the Corsa system really begins to show its worth when intake breathing is improved, either with a cold-air intake or even with a supercharger or turbocharger.

Belliveau has plans for more upgrades but he's still wowed by a system that seems to have defied conventional exhaust wisdom.

There's just one problem. Thanks to Corsa, there are fewer stares from the opposite sex. Well, sort of. "I can't really tell, actually ... I drive by them too fast now."

Corsa have also made a muffler exhaust for the once-droning Camaro



The patented and very successful Corsa exhaust muffler design.

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you are honest about what it is you desire then a friend will be honest with you about whether they can give it to you. Even if they can't, they may still be able to put you in touch with someone who can.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
It may seem as if you are out of step, logically and emotionally, with those around you. Maybe you are, but what of it? You are entitled to look at life any way you please.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Not everyone cares about what you care about, and why should they? All you need to realize is that one good person — that's you — can make a world of difference.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The road you're travelling may not be of your own choosing but fate in its wisdom has pushed you in this direction so you would be wise not to fight against it. Worry less and life will be less of a struggle.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Others may be urging you to take a certain course of action but if your instincts tell you it's wrong then it's your instincts you must follow. It doesn't matter that you are unpopular, it matters only that you are right.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Before you get more of what you desire, it might be wise to create space by getting rid of what you no longer need. Why hold on to things you will most likely never use again?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
What you think is a problem is in fact an opportunity in disguise. When you realize it, your mood will lighten and new opportunities will open up for you. You will soon be smiling.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The situation you face today is the same situation you faced yesterday. So why have you still not resolved it? Come on, you're a Scorpio. You're meant to be smart and decisive!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be careful what you ask for over the next 24 hours because you are likely to get it, but not in quite the way you expected. Come the eclipse in your sign this weekend, you may even want to give it back again.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It would appear that you are involved in a feud and it is taking up far too much of your time and energy. Whatever it is about, you must get over it quickly. There are more important things to focus on.

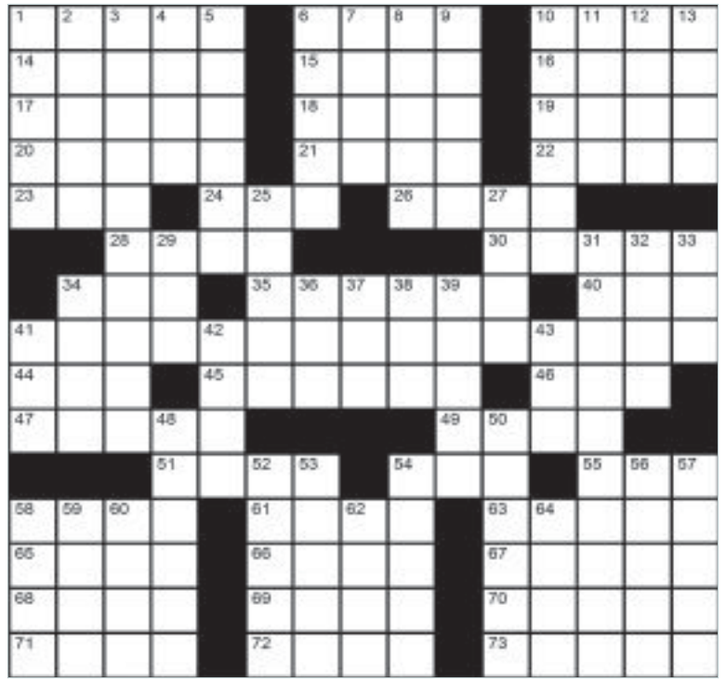
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't just assume that loved ones know how you feel. Tell them in words that make it impossible for them not to understand. Sometimes you can be a bit too cool.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
At home and at work you will get the chance to do good deeds today. Some of those who need your assistance may not be your favourite people but you'll help them anyway.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

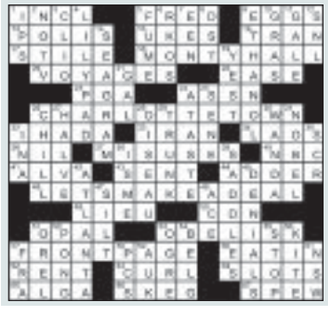
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Kingly
6. Clump
10. Icy waters danger
14. Cherish
15. Govern
16. Above
17. Frasier's sitcom brother
18. Division
19. Vegas alternative
20. Butcher shop waste
21. Roof's overhang
22. Ms. Barrymore
23. The Big Apple
24. "__ say!"
26. River for Hamburg, Germany
28. Margarine's fancy name
30. Remove the towel from the clothesline
34. Expected
35. Vigorous
40. Charlemagne's domain [acronym]
41. "Sundown" singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
44. Ruler measurements, for short
45. Boil under the collar
46. _ __ Z
47. "__ Magnolias" (1989)
49. Chauffeured car
51. "Thou __ protest too much."
54. Furniture wood
55. Shut out
58. Hoax
61. Clock†time
63. Have _ __ (Be optimistic still)
65. Inca empire's modern home
66. "__ and the King"
67. Big lake in #48-Down, Gitche __
68. Moran of "Happy Days"
69. Bundles of bills
70. Be a war journalist inside a military unit
71. Kaput
72. Gin flavouring
73. Work stations

Down
1. Didn't stop: 2 wds.
2. Spiritually uplift
3. Workplace for Sarnia-born athlete Mike Weir: 2 wds.
4. GTA = Greater Toronto __
5. Regina-born actor Mr. Nielsen
6. Porridge, for Oliver Twist
7. Roman moon goddess
8. Oil source
9. __ nut
10. Sir Robert __ (Canada's 8th Prime Minister)
11. At any time
12. French philosopher/mathematician Mr. Descartes
13. Become a bigger plant
25. Canadians Greene or Michaels
27. "Corner Gas" star, Brent __
29. __ Zeppelin
31. Crashed-in-on snapshots
32. Slangy suffix to 'Stink'
33. Acquire
34. "__ Forget the Lyrics!"
36. Hoagy Carmichael song: "__ Buttermilk Sky"
37. Took the bait
38. "Oh, yuck."
39. Beach trinket
41. Soldiers Joe and Jane
42. European city once called Christiania
43. The Partridges, e.g.
48. Song by #41-Across: "Wreck of the __ Fitzgerald"
50. Pictured
52. Artie and George Bernard
53. Of varied pitch
54. Obliterate
56. Take _ __ (Look at the present ahead of time)
57. Wants
58. Hotfooted it
59. "From __ to Eternity"
60. Vocal variety
62. Take apart
64. Actor Mr. Cronyn

Yesterday's Crossword



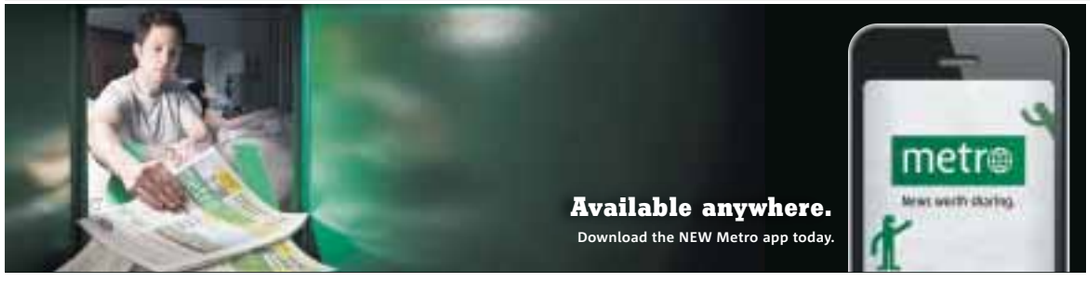
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

9				1		7	8	
	3		9	6		4		
					3			
	5	7				9		8
6								4
4		8				2	3	
			4					
		6		7	8		1	
	2	5		3				6

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	3	8	2	9	6	5	7
6	9	2	5	7	1	4	8	3
5	8	7	3	4	6	2	1	9
3	1	6	2	5	8	9	7	4
8	5	4	6	9	7	1	3	2
2	7	9	4	1	3	8	6	5
4	3	5	1	8	2	7	9	6
7	6	1	9	3	4	5	2	8
9	2	8	7	6	5	3	4	1



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